



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Isle Royale National Park  
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## **Youth Artist-In-Residency**

### **Youth Artist-in-Residence Program**

The Youth Artist-in-Residence program at Isle Royale National Park is open to aspiring artists whose work can be influenced by this superb Northwood's wilderness. We offer writers, composers, and all visual and performing artists the opportunity to capture the moods of Isle Royale in their particular art form.

The park offers the use of a rustic cabin in Tobin Harbor, near Rock Harbor on the northeast end of the island, from mid-June through early September at no cost to the artist. Artists are in residence on the island for 1 to 2 weeks. On arrival to Rock Harbor the artist will be assisted with hauling gear and supplies to the cabin. The cabin can also be accessed by an approximately 2 ½ mile hike from Rock Harbor a canoe is provided for personal and inspirational travel while conducting the residency. Transportation to and from Isle Royale is provided at no cost to the artist and guardian on the National Park Service *MV Ranger III*, a 165-foot ship operating out of Houghton, Michigan.

As part of their residency, the artist is required to contribute a piece of work representative of their stay at Isle Royale, to be used by the park in an appropriate manner.

Isle Royale National Park, Isle Royale Natural History Association, and the Copper Country Community Arts Council sponsor the Artist-in-Residence program. The artist will be enrolled in the National Park Service's *Volunteer in the Parks* Program.

### **Isle Royale National Park**

Isle Royale is an island wilderness in Lake Superior, and is 45 miles long and 8.5 miles wide at its widest point. The park is 15 miles from Grand Portage, Minnesota, 73 miles from Houghton, Michigan, and 56 miles from Copper Harbor, Michigan. Isle Royale is a roadless area; transportation on the island is either by watercraft or by foot. Ninety-nine percent of the island is wilderness and in 1981 the park was designated a U.S. Biosphere Reserve.

Picturesque Isle Royale is ideally suited for a Youth Artist-in-Residence program. There are wave-washed shores, boreal forests of spruce and fir, miles of ridge and valley topography, fascinating mammals (e.g. wolves and moose) and colorful birds. Hundreds of species of wildflowers and other interesting plants grow in the park.

Isle Royale's cultural history includes prehistoric Native American copper mining, lighthouses, fisheries, and maritime culture. Some of these resources are accessible from Rock Harbor via 165 miles of maintained trails or by various boat services.

With Isle Royale's vast and varied cultural and natural resources, it presents itself as the ideal place for creative endeavors. The solitude and serenity of the Island inspire creativity.

### **Accommodations**

The Artist-in-Residence program is based at the former cottage of the Dassler family, summer residents at Isle Royale. The cabin is in Tobin Harbor, about two miles by boat or trail from the park's major development at Rock Harbor. A guest house at the site can serve as a workroom and storage place. Accommodation is simple with a pit toilet, no electricity or running water and a canoe for transportation. The cabin will accommodate 2 guests; the selected youth resident must be accompanied by a legal guardian. Basic cooking equipment and fuel are provided, but the artist needs to bring personal gear, food, and art supplies. Food for the entire stay needs to be purchased before the trip.

Isle Royale is a remote wilderness and all visitors must be well prepared. The artist should be self-sufficient, in good health, and expect cool temperatures, solitude, and simple facilities. The facilities being used for this program are not wheelchair accessible.

### **The Selection Process**

A panel of park representatives and professionals from various disciplines will choose the finalist. The selection is based on artistic integrity, ability to reside in a wilderness environment, willingness to donate a finished piece of work inspired on the island, and ability to relate to and interpret the park. We consider all forms of art except those that manipulate or disturb the park's environment.

Selections are made without regard to race, religion, marital status, sex, age, or national origin. Once the selection has been made the youth artist will be contacted and teamed with a past artist-in-residence (local artist) to assist with their "project" and give insight on different types of media that one might use to represent Isle Royale.

## **Application Procedure**

Please note all artists' work must be original.  
In your application package, please include the following:

1. Discuss the Youth Artist-in-Residence program with a parent or guardian. Once you have permission to apply, have him or her sign the line below where it says "Parent or Guardian Signature." **Submit this page with your application.**
2. *This applicant has my permission to apply for the Isle Royale Artist in Residence program. I understand that a parent or guardian I must accompany the youth artist during the residency.*

Printed name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Answer the following question: Why do you want to be a Youth Artist-in-Residence at Isle Royale National Park? You can answer this question any way you want (essay, video, drawing, song – the sky is the limit here!) Please be sure to include your name, what school you go to, your age, and the type of art you create.
4. Submit a Letter of Recommendation. Ask a teacher, boss, or other mentor who can write about why you should be the Youth Artist-in-Residence. This letter of recommendation can be given to you and turned in with your other application materials.
5. One sample of artwork.

Submit the above materials by February 16, 2016 to:

- a. Mail: ATTN: Youth Artist-in-Residence, Isle Royale National Park, 800 E. Lakeshore Dr. Houghton, MI 49931
- b. Email: [ISRO\\_Parkinfo@nps.gov](mailto:ISRO_Parkinfo@nps.gov)
- c. Drop off: at the Isle Royale Visitor Center (address is the same as mailing address above) Open Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm EST.